

Follow this trail to explore the history and heritage of Hucknall's Titchfield Park.

The circular trail can be started at any point and involves only slight slopes and an optional flight of steps.

You will find markers along the way, indicating viewing points for the historical photographs included in this leaflet.



The quotes included are from local residents who took part in a community heritage project.

**Titchfield Park** was created when the Duke of Portland gave 11 acres of land, then known as Caddow Park, to the town of Hucknall in 1914. The gift was in honour of his Silver Wedding Anniversary and the 21st birthday of his son, The Marquis of Titchfield. The park was intended as a recreational retreat for the residents of Hucknall, many of whom at this time worked underground in the town's coal pits.

A scheme was drawn up by J.W. Bardill of Nottingham. The plans originally incorporating a range of sports facilities, a caretakers house and "avenues fringed with trees". A further 13 acres were added when the Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee decided to further the development of the park from funds raised by a tax on coal, intended to provide facilities for the local miners.

Titchfield Park has experienced a regeneration in recent years. Renewed investment has restored the park as a focus for community recreation and local pride. The basic layout remains largely unaltered, but changes in the values and interests of local people have prompted new features, such as the skate park, all weather pitch and nature areas.

## Titchfield Park

Park Drive, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, NG15 7LS  
Car Park on Morven Avenue (off Beardall Street)



For more information telephone 01623 450000  
or visit [www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/parks](http://www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/parks)

Friends of  
Hucknall  
Titchfield  
Park



To get involved with the  
Friends of Titchfield Park  
email us at:  
[titchfieldpark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:titchfieldpark@yahoo.co.uk)

Ashfield District Council and the Friends of Titchfield Park would like to thank all those who shared their memories of the park in the course of this project. Special thanks to Maureen Newton, Hucknall Heritage Society and all the local groups who attended the 'Heritage in the Park' event.



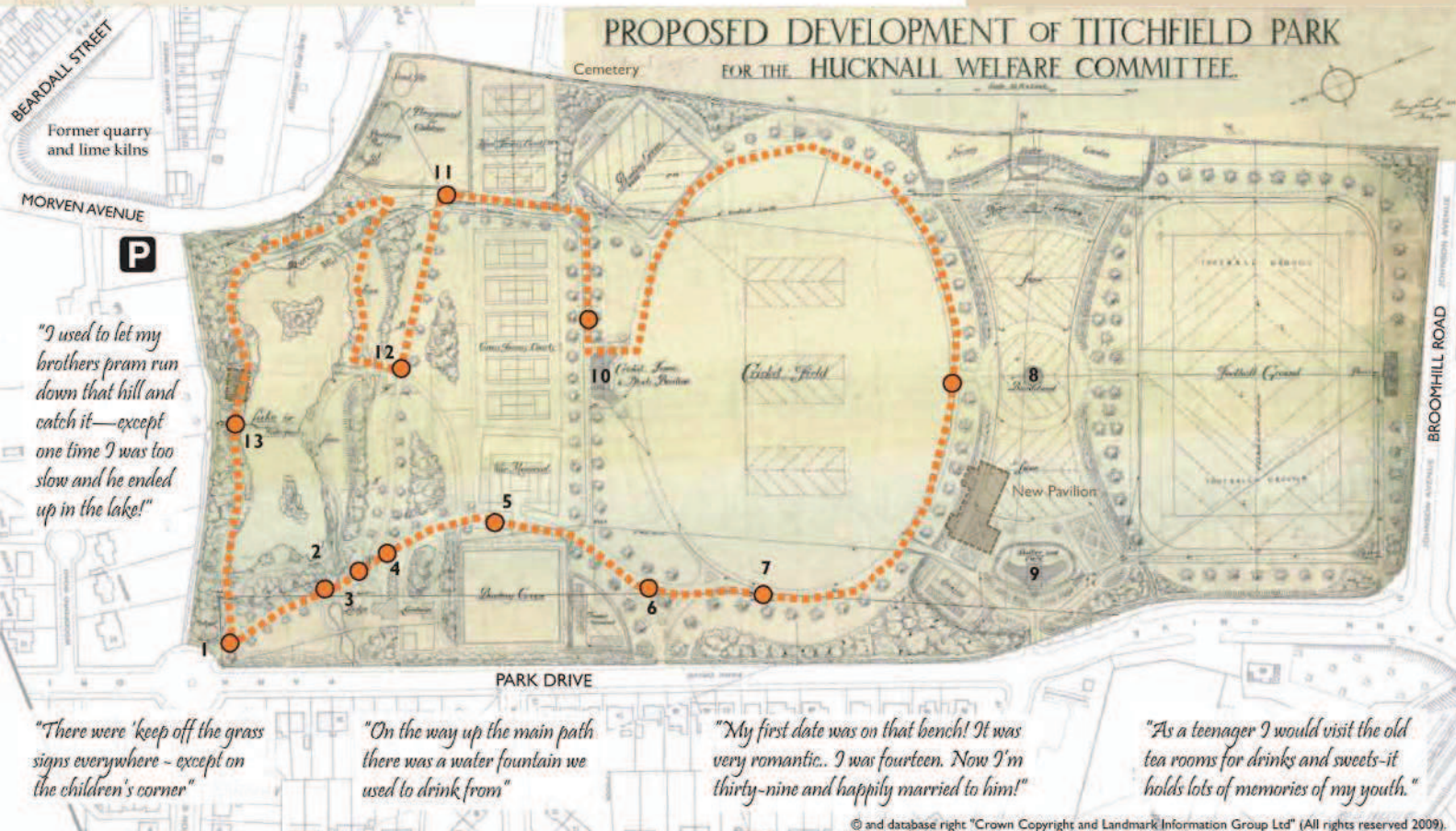
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# Titchfield Park

Hucknall

# Heritage Trail



"I used to let my brothers pram run down that hill and catch it—except one time I was too slow and he ended up in the lake!"

"There were 'keep off the grass' signs everywhere - except on the children's corner"

"On the way up the main path there was a water fountain we used to drink from"

"My first date was on that bench! It was very romantic. I was fourteen. Now I'm thirty-nine and happily married to him!"

"As a teenager I would visit the old tea rooms for drinks and sweets—it holds lots of memories of my youth."

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In the 18th Century the land on which the park is built was owned by Lord Byron, along with many other parts of Hucknall.

Even before the park was built, the land was used for events, such as an Old Age Pensioners Tea held on Feast Monday.

At it's heyday the park was visited by buses from Mansfield, Huthwaite and Bulwell.

The construction of the park was delayed by the First World War, which broke out shortly after the land was gifted to the Town. During this time the Council considered ploughing up the park to grow potatoes.

The plans above were drawn up in 1923 for the extension of Titchfield Park by Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee. The map behind shows the park surroundings in the 1950s.



1. Park Drive Gates

The ornamental gates at the lower end of the park are based on archive images of the official opening ceremony in July 1922, when the Marquis of Titchfield was presented a golden key to the park. At this stage the park was less than half its current size.

2. Boating lake



*"My brother Albert fell in there when he was seven - catching tiddlers he was!"*

The boating lake was added in 1925 as part of the Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee extensions. It was designed with two islands and a bridge over the stream (from which the view above was taken). Boats were hired out and proved a popular activity. The willow tree to the left would have stood on the banks of the lake.

*"We used to stand on the bridge and watch the boats—we would sit under the willow tree to shelter from the rain."*

3. Ornamental gardens



As part of the design, the park was planted with trees, shrubberies and ornamental gardens. This lower section of the park was laid out like a Japanese rockery. In the background of this picture are the Julian Cahn Homes of Rest for Miners, which were built soon after the park was opened. The homes were visited by King George V in 1926. At this time the houses on Park Drive were yet to be built.

4. Park Keepers House

Continuing up the main path, on your right is the original park keeper's house. The Park Committee considered it essential to have a park keeper and, from thirty-two applicants, the first to take the position was Mr Wheat. He was furnished with a uniform from the Co-operative Society, complete with cap and coat of arms. Following a long period without a park keeper through the late 20th Century, the position was reinstated in 2008 as part of the park's regeneration. The keepers house is now a private residence.

5. War Memorial



Hucknall's War Memorial is a commemoration of 288 Hucknall men killed in the First World War. It was unveiled on 3rd September 1922 in front of around 7000 people. A procession of more than 3000 made their way from the

Market Place, including three bands, ex-servicemen and 2500 schoolchildren. This procession route is still followed to this day on Remembrance Sunday. The memorial was designed by Hucknall-born architect, Mr. T.C Howitt, who also designed the park's pavilion, tea rooms and bandstand, as well as the Council House in Nottingham. Names of those remembered from the First World War are listed on eight bronze plaques on the surrounding corner obelisks, while dedications to the fallen of the Second World War were added in 1947. The War Memorial is now a Grade II listed building. Restoration work was completed in 2008, including a new plaque to remember victims of more recent conflicts.

6. Zachariah Green Monument (leaflet front)

Zachariah Green was a renowned healer and philanthropist, born in Hucknall. Charging only for the cost his supplies, he was popular among less affluent residents who would otherwise not have been able to afford good medical care. His skills were such that he was reputed to have also treated six Mayors of Nottingham. Upon his death in 1897, £400 was raised by public subscription for a memorial fountain. The fountain was originally located in Hucknall Market Place but in 1929 was moved to its current position on Titchfield Park. Memorials to Zachariah's son and grandchildren, who continued his charitable work, were also later added. Constructed with red and grey Scots granite, it is the second Grade II listed building on the park.

7. Cricket Pitch

The distinctive oval of the cricket field is a striking feature of the design drawn up for the Miners Welfare Committee extension around 1926. The cricket square was notorious as "hallowed ground" among park users, although an archive letter from the Primitive Methodist Cricket Club describes their dismay at its poor condition as a result of several horses being on it!

8. Bandstand



In the middle of the top field, between a football pitch and the cricket pitch, stood a bandstand. Performances by bands were well attended, particularly on Sunday nights, when dancing was common. As well as performances on the bandstand, the park also hosted performances by marching bands, from the mid-1930s. Local bands included the Titchfield Nomads, the Harlequins, the Lavinracs, the Byron Revellers, the Sunray Hussars and the Pearlies.

*"Bands used to come from all over to compete on the park"*

9. Tea Rooms



The bandstand was overlooked by the park Tea Rooms which stood to your right. Behind this stood the factories of Stag (furniture) and Vijella (fabric), whose employees would flock to the park on their lunch breaks. Now the site of new housing, the street names commemorate the former factories and the goods they produced.

10. Cricket, Tennis and Bowls Pavilion



The original sports pavilion was funded by Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee and designed by T.C. Howitt. Sadly it was destroyed by fire in 1993 but was replaced by two new sports pavilions in 2007, featuring a clock inspired by the original design. Note the newly planted trees in the photo, which now form a striking avenue of limes.

11. Playground



The playground was the only place children were encouraged to play, and was equipped with a paddling pool, sandpit, swings, a roundabout and a large slide. The area of land beyond the stream was a later addition to the park. This area had previously been a quarry containing lime kilns (used to create quicklime for agriculture and construction by heating limestone). When the park was first built it contained a row of terraced houses (Quarry Street) and allotments.

12. Steps to boating lake

The steps leading down to the former lake do not feature on the original designs, but were created during its construction using stone excavated from site. By 1938 the growth of vegetation and silting had prevented the use of boats on the lake. It was eventually filled in 1946, following subsidence damage and leakage problems. Amongst the rubble and soil used to fill the lake were two engines from local employer Rolls Royce. The engines have since been excavated and returned to their rightful owners!

13. "The Boathouse"



The boathouse is an ornamental shelter which once stood on the banks of the boating lake. Built in 1928, it was funded by the money granted by the Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee during the park extension. Restored in 2009, thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the shelter provides a lasting memory of the mining industry's contribution to the park and the people of Hucknall.

Pictures courtesy of Nottinghamshire County Council, Mr Archer, Miss B. Kaye and [www.picturethepast.org.uk](http://www.picturethepast.org.uk)